

Submitter: Chris Cooper
On Behalf Of: Central Oregon
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3134

To Whom It May Concern,

As a physical therapist practicing in Bend, Oregon, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3134, particularly its provisions addressing prior authorization reform including physical therapy.

This legislation is a vital step toward improving patient access to timely physical therapy services while alleviating the administrative burdens that hinder care delivery. We are often scrambling to do extra paperwork which is a time burden and frustrating especially with a post op patient who needs consistent and timely PT services after surgery.

In my practice, prior authorization requirements often delay essential treatments for patients recovering from injuries, managing chronic pain, or striving to regain mobility. These delays are compounded by the inconsistent and overly restrictive ways insurance companies define "medical necessity." Too often, their narrow criteria fail to account for the individualized needs of patients, dismissing evidence-based interventions that physical therapists know to be effective. In Central Oregon recreational pursuits patients have and wish to get back to doing to improve their HEALTH AND WELL BEING are often not considered "medically necessary" which is laughable. We are not trying to "game the system" by helping them get back to these activities. We are only trying to help facilitate their ability to improve their quality of physical and mental health after an unfortunate injury.

HB 3134's efforts to streamline or reduce prior authorization barriers would not only expedite care but also challenge the arbitrary standards imposed by insurers, allowing us to prioritize patient outcomes over bureaucratic hurdles.

By passing House Bill 3134, the Oregon Legislature can empower physical therapists to focus on healing rather than navigating red tape, while ensuring that "medical necessity" reflects the realities of patient care rather than the preferences of insurance companies. I urge your support for this transformative bill.

Sincerely,

Christopher Cooper, PT, DPT, OCS, CSCS